

To: Casey Padgett[casey.padgett@sol.doi.gov]
Cc: Mueller, Sarah[Mueller.Sarah@epa.gov]; Rongone, Marie[Rongone.Marie@epa.gov]
From: Minor, Dustin
Sent: Mon 6/8/2015 11:50:35 PM
Subject: FW: email for DOI on Section 13 at Haystack

Casey,

Sarah Mueller, an attorney in my Branch, has been trying to figure out the status of certain land in the area of McKinley County, New Mexico and the Baca/Prewitt Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

She has contacted several people about it at DOI and/or BIA including attorneys at the Solicitor's Office. We understand that it is a complicated issue, but we would like to talk soon to see if we can resolve it because we are intending to take a CERCLA response this summer and need to resolve the jurisdictional issues before then.

Sarah's email with a little more information is provided below.

I would appreciate it if you could give me a call so we could discuss what we may be able to do to resolve this issue.

Thank you.

Dusty

Dustin F. Minor

Chief, Hazardous Waste Branch

Office of Regional Counsel

(415) 972-3888

From: Mueller, Sarah
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 2:34 PM
To: Minor, Dustin
Cc: Rongone, Marie
Subject: email for DOI on Section 13 at Haystack

Dusty,

Below is a paragraph summarizing our question about the status of Section 13.

Our Superfund program has been looking at a group of abandoned uranium mines in the area of the Baca/Prewitt chapter, and McKinley County, New Mexico. There is one parcel of land that Navajo Land Department believes is part of Navajo Nation, but it seems to be held by either BIA or BLM. It is not part of the reservation and is not allotment land. It had been subject to various withdrawals at different periods of time, and right now it seems to be subject to PLO 2198, which apparently was intended to facilitate land consolidation for the Navajo Nation. PLO 2198 says that the land is administered by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. However, we have not been able to determine what the current status of the land is, or which agency to contact with regards to access and other issues. The land in question is SE ¼ Section 13, T13N, R11W.

Sarah E. Mueller

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